

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01154 091715Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 090907Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9706

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1154

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, EEWT, BU, LE, BE (ISPENTCHIAN)

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF ABBOTT LABORATORIES EMPLOYEE

REF: STATE 127957

1. ABBOTT LABORATORIES EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT ROVER SCHOELLHORN AND ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL J.M. BERNIK WERE IN SOFIA JUNE 5 THROUGH 7, 1975. DURING VISIT THEY CONFERRED WITH PHARMACHIM AND THE BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE ISPENTCHIAN CASE AND HAD FULL DEBRIEFING AND CONSULTATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS.

2. MR. ISPENTCHIAN WAS PRESENT DURING THE SECOND OF THEIR THREE MEETINGS WITH THE INVESTIGATORS. ALTHOUGH PROGRESS WAS MADE IN CLARIFICATION OF SOME OF THE SENSITIVE ISSUES INVOLVED, ISPENTCHIAN IS STILL BEING HELD WITHOUT CHARGE. THE CASE APPEARS TO INVOLVE A NUMBER OF COMPLICATIONS.

3. ABBOTT LABORATORIES MUST NOW FORMULATE A COURSE OF ACTION BASED ON INFORMATION ACQUIRED DURING THE VISIT. IN VIEW OF THE COMPLEXITY OF ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED AND THEIR POSSIBLE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, MR. SCHOELLHORN INTENDS TO TAKE UP DIRECT CONTACT WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE UPON HIS RETURN TO THE U.S., TO DESCRIBE AND
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DISCUSS THE SITUATION. MR. SCHOELLHORN EXPECTS TO BE

BACK IN THE U.S. DURING WEEK OF JUNE 16.

HERZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

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